



ATHENA WORKSHOP MOLDOVA
FOSTERING SUSTAINABLE AND AUTONOMOUS
HIGHER EDUCATION INSTITUTIONS

INTERNATIONAL SPEAKERS

Thomas Estermann

Head of the Unit Governance, Autonomy and Funding, European University Association



Thomas Estermann is Head of the Unit Governance, Autonomy and Funding with responsibilities for EUA's work aimed at strengthening universities' autonomy, governance, management and their financial sustainability.

Before joining EUA in July 2007, Thomas Estermann was Deputy Head of Strategic Development and Deputy Head of Administration at the University of Music and Performing Arts, Vienna, a member of the universities' senate and involved in the last two reforms in higher education in Austria. Before entering the University in 1997, he pursued a career as a lawyer.

Thomas Estermann was previously member of the Executive Committee of HUMANE (Heads of University Management & Administration Network in Europe) and founding chairman of WSA, a network of senior university managers in Europe. He is also a member of the editorial board of the UK-based journal 'Perspectives', which focuses on policy and practice in Higher Education. He holds a master's degree in law from the University of Vienna.

Peter Mederly

Adviser to the Minister of Education, Research, Science and Sports of Slovakia, Associate Professor at the Comenius University, Bratislava



Peter Mederly received a MSc degree in 1971 and a PhD in mathematics in 1976 from the Comenius University in Bratislava.

Since September 1972, he has worked at Comenius University in different positions including the Dean of the Faculty of Mathematics and Physics (1991-1997). From January 1999 to August 2006, he also worked at the Ministry of Education in the positions of Director General for Higher Education and Permanent Secretary of the Ministry. At the Ministry, he was responsible for several fundamental reform projects in the Slovak education system.

Peter Mederly's work resulted in approximately 40 publications in algebra, computer graphics, applied computing and information systems and administration and financing of higher education published in different journals in Slovakia and abroad and in proceedings of

national and international conferences. He presented his results at conferences in the US, UK, France, Finland, the Netherlands, Belgium, China, Hungary, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Kazakhstan, Czech Republic and Slovakia.

Peter Mederly returned to the Ministry in 2010 and currently works as adviser to the Minister. He is also associate professor at Comenius University.

Alar Karis

Head of National Audit Office, former Rector of the University of Tartu, Estonia



Alar Karis was Rector of the University of Tartu from 2007 to 2012 and was Chairman of the Estonian Rectors' Conference until March 2013.

From 2003 to 2007, he was Rector at the Estonian University of Life Sciences. Since obtaining his doctorate in 1987, he has been Research Fellow and Senior Research Fellow at numerous institutions notably in Estonia, the Netherlands, and in the United Kingdom. Alar Karis has been a professor at the University of Tartu since 1999. His main fields of research are developmental biology, molecular genetics and transgenic technology.

Alar Karis has been professionally involved in higher education and research management in a wide array of activities. He has also served on several advisory committees at European level as well as national level, including for the Estonian Ministry of Education and Research. Further duties include membership of the Estonian Research and Development Council; the President's Academic Advisory Board; the Board of the Estonian Development Fund; the Archimedes Foundation and Estonian Information Technology Foundation; and the Advisory Committee of Enterprise Estonia.

Camilla Österberg-Dobson

Director of Financial Planning, University of Helsinki, Finland



As a Director of Financial Planning at the University of Helsinki since 2001, Camilla Österberg-Dobson is responsible for budgeting, financial reporting and developing and implementing new systems and processes such as full costing. Prior to her current post, she held a range of positions at the Hanken School of Economics. She is also a Hanken graduate.

Camilla Österberg-Dobson was active for many years in NUAS, the Scandinavian university cooperation network, and chaired the planning group for financial matters between 2003 and 2009. She also co-authored the first scholarly paper on the recent higher education reforms in Finland.

Camilla Österberg-Dobson was a senior adviser to the European University Association, working on the "EUIMA – Full Costing" project which aimed to foster the development of full costing and financial management within European universities.

Pieter-Jan Aartsen

Corporate Controller, University of Amsterdam, the Netherlands



P.J. Aartsen MA (1960), educated as a theologian and economist, was internal auditor at the University of Amsterdam for eight years before being appointed as controller at the central level of the university in 2005. In this position he was responsible for the design and implementation of the Full Cost Model in the Financial System (SAP) of the University of Amsterdam.

He took part in a commission of the Ministry of Finance in the Netherlands to harmonise the funding principles of all ministries for research (for public bodies as well as for private enterprises). In recent years he was involved in a project to set up a management reporting system, in which data from the internal budget allocation system, the Full Cost allocation, and information about human resources, time spending, students and teaching activity are related and presented to management and staff of the University of Amsterdam.

Gabriella Kemény

Director of Human Resources, Central European University, Hungary



Gabriella Kemény currently works as the Director of Human Resources at the Central European University (CEU), a private higher education institution located in Budapest and accredited both in the US and Hungary. Before joining CEU, she served as the Director of Tempus Public Foundation. This organisation manages the major EU and regional grant schemes supporting international cooperation and mobility in the field of education and vocational training. In her capacity, she was involved into the planning and implementation of several large projects related to the modernisation of higher education in Hungary, like the introduction of the ECTS, the Bologna system and the EQF.

At present, she's a member of the task force that fosters the establishment of a Pan-European Pension Plan for Researchers. This initiative of the European Commission aims at promoting the mobility of researchers within the European Research Area.